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What Does It Mean That the Bible is Infallible?

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Understanding Biblical Infallibility

The term "*infallible*" means incapable of error. When we describe the Bible as infallible, we affirm that Scripture is completely trustworthy and without error in its teachings. This concept is closely related to "*inerrancy*," which holds that the Bible is free from any errors. Hence, infallibility assures believers of the Bible's reliability as the ultimate source of truth.

Biblical Foundations for Infallibility

The Bible itself claims infallibility. In 2 Peter 1:19-21, it states that the prophetic message is "*completely reliable*" and not a product of human will but delivered through men moved by the Holy Spirit. Similarly, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 proclaims, "*All Scripture is God-breathed*," signifying divine origin and thus ensuring its perfection and reliability. Jesus affirmed this when He said, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17), emphasizing the unwavering truth of Scripture.

God's Nature and His Word

The infallibility of Scripture is grounded in the perfect nature of God. Since God is perfect and cannot lie (Titus 1:2), His Word must *also be perfect and truthful. Psalm 19:7 declares,* "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul," reinforcing that Scripture, given by a perfect God, is flawless. Hebrews 6:18 emphasizes that it is impossible for God to lie, thereby underscoring the trustworthiness of His Word.

Scope of Infallibility

Infallibility pertains specifically to the original manuscripts of the Bible. While translations and copies may contain minor errors due to human mistakes, these do not affect the core doctrines or teachings of Scripture. The original texts were divinely inspired and thus free from error, guided by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Psalm 12:6 illustrates this purity: "*The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.*"

Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture

As God's infallible Word, the Bible is the ultimate authority for faith and practice. It is sufficient to equip believers for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17) and judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible stands as the objective source of God's revelation to humanity, encompassing His nature, will, and redemptive plan. Isaiah 55:11 highlights the effectiveness of God's Word: "*so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It* will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Jesus and Scripture

Jesus Christ affirmed the infallibility of Scripture. In Matthew 5:18, He declared, "*For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*" This assertion underscores the enduring truth and reliability of God's Word.

Conclusion

The doctrine of biblical infallibility assures believers of the absolute trustworthiness of Scripture. As God's perfect revelation, the Bible guides us into all truth, equipping us thoroughly for a life of faith and service. Embracing this truth strengthens our confidence in God's Word and its role in our spiritual journey. Understanding the infallibility of the Bible helps believers appreciate the reliability and authority of God's Word, fostering a deeper trust in its teachings and guidance for our lives.

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